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November 16, 2004

Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
US EPA
CERCLA Docket office
Mail Code 5305T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE; Docket period dated September 23 –November 22.
Safety Light Corporation, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to the notice my family received on October 29, 2004 I offer the following comments regarding the consideration of the Safety Light site in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. for the National Priorities List list eligibility for federal cleanup. I affirm the importance of this effort which is long overdue and still inadequate given the potential human costs of harmful exposures of heavy metals and radioactive materials from the site as noted in the supporting materials .

My family owned the property at 4050 old Berwick Road from the 1930s until the mid 1990's. Our property which borders the South- southwest was frequently littered with refuse such as instrument dials and yellow waste water discharge from the SLC site(the former US Radium Plant). In addition frequent flooding of the canals which were used for waste further added to the contamination of our property.

A family of eight, we drank well water until municipal water was offered in the late 1980's, We ate food grown on the garden in the southern aspect of our property. As children we played in the canal areas amidst the litter. The nature and possible health consequences of the contamination was clearly unknown. Concerns were raised by others in neighborhood after a 10 year old child developed bone cancer. But, the many long term effects of exposure was and still is an abstract fear.

Given the known types of contamination and their health risks, it is imperative to finally begin the process of clean up. While the full extent of contamination is not known, the estimated materials identified in the EPA supporting materials raise a high alert to the potential danger. Too many of the identified contaminants (Radium, tritium, lead, arsenic, nickel and strontium) may cause health problems long after exposure. My suggestions for future health study include:

1. Studying the water flow and wind pattern distribution of contaminants

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2. Identifying the community of resident who were potentially exposed to water, soil or airborne contaminants over the past fifty years for the purpose of developing epidemiological study of their exposure and associated health effects .
3. A sub-study should include those community persons who not only lived in proximity but also were employed at the plant.

As the initiation of the Remediation and Investigation Study begins in the coming year, there is an imperative to now fully investigate and openly acknowledge the contamination and health risks associated with the Safety Light site. This has been too slow in coming no doubt due to the loose structure of the township authority and their investment in maintaining the economic viability of this industry. The lack of local system of health and safety oversight added to the laxity of action.

My many years in public health have heightened my awareness of the importance of promoting environmental health and safety. I know that while we cannot turn back the clock, we also should not shut our eyes to the ongoing risks. I urge the Safety Light Corporation be made a high priority and that the process of study and clean begin with full disclosure.

Sincerely,

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